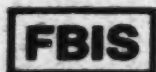


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# Latin America Report

No. 2694



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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17 June 1983

## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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## CONTENTS

## COUNTRY SECTION

## INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Periodic Visits to Central America by ODCA  
(EL NACIONAL, 30 Apr 83)..... 1

## ARGENTINA

- Statistics of MEKO-Type Frigate Published  
(LA NOUVELLE REVUE MARITIME, Apr 83)..... 3

## CHILE

- External Debt Renegotiation Viewed as Positive Action  
(EL MERCURIO, 5 May 83)..... 5
- Labor Urges Government To Recognize Scope of Protest  
(TERCERA DE LA HORA, 12 May 83)..... 7
- Significance of New Archbishops, Bishops Emphasized  
(EL MERCURIO, 8 May 83)..... 9

## Briefs

- Exports Increase in April 11
- Human Rights Commission Report 11

## CUBA

- Summary of International Construction Projects  
(Mirta Balea; PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Mar 83)..... 12
- Over 10,000 African Students on Isle of Youth  
(Victor Carriba; PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Mar 83)..... 15



## EL SALVADOR

Foreign Debt Reaches 4.2 Billion Colons (DIARIO LATINO, 14 May 83).....	19
Scarcity, Cost of Medicines Causes Alarm (LA PRENSA GRAFICA, 9 May 83).....	20
Doubling of Population by Year 2000 Poses Grave Problems (DIARIO LATINO, 30 Apr 83).....	21
Cotton Growers Surpass Production Goals (DIARIO LATINO, 14 Apr 83).....	22
SCIS Concerned About Proposed Tax Package (EL MUNDO, 9 May 83).....	24

## GUATEMALA

Press Release From Nicaragua Embassy Denounces Reagan (EL IMPARCIAL, 3 May 83).....	26
Political Future of Communist Party Not Clear (EL IMPARCIAL, 3 May 83).....	27
PID Requests Early Elections To Enhance National Trust (EL IMPARCIAL, 3 May 83).....	29
FUR Only Traditional Party Not Registered (EL IMPARCIAL, 3 May 83).....	30
Briefs Difficult To Protect Truck Drivers	31

## MEXICO

PRI Deputy Sees Need for Party Reform (Jorge Octavio Ochoa; EL DIA, 28 Apr 83).....	32
PSUM, PST Said Inciting Indians To Seize Land (LA VOZ DEL SURESTE, 9 Apr 83).....	33
Oaxaca Bishop Sees Indians Susceptible to Manipulation (LA VOZ DEL SURESTE, 16 Apr 83).....	34
Cardinal Corripio Calls for Moral Reform (EXCELSIOR, 4 Apr 83).....	35
PEMEX Compensates Peasants for Oil Exploration Damages (Rene Delgado; UNOMASUNO, 27 Apr 83).....	36

Housing Construction Costs Increase 240 Percent (Teresa Gil; UNOMASUNO, 24 Apr 83).....	38
Briefs	
Ambassador to Portugal	39
NICARAGUA	
Domestic Opposition Also 'Enemy' of Revolution (Gladys Campos de Orozco; EL NUEVO DIARIO, 7 Apr 83).....	49
VENEZUELA	
Orinoco-Apure Integration Project Discussed (Luis Alvaray; RESUMEN, 22 May 83).....	44
Briefs	
FCA Loans to Producers	47
FEDECAMARAS Opposes Wage Increase	47
Housing Shortage	48

## PERIODIC VISITS TO CENTRAL AMERICA BY ODCA

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 Apr 83 p D-12

/Text/ Aristides Calvani, assistant secretary general of COPEI /Social Christian Party/ and secretary general of ODCA /Christian Democratic Organization of America/ and Eudoro Gonzalez, secretary of the National Committee of the green party travel practically once a month to El Salvador and other Central American countries such as Guatemala and Honduras.

He also has contacts with Nicaragua and it is no secret that on 8 and 9 May, the Sandinist commander Bayardo Arce, will be in Caracas, invited by none other than ODCA.

Presently, Calvani is in El Salvador. It became known that his primary goal is to create a better climate in the area, especially for peace, searching for a common language and moderate actions to avoid major conflicts. His activity is centered above all in the Democratic Christian parties of the area, giving assistance and electoral advice, about formation and organization.

Although this is an ODCA mission, it is known that it has the tacit approval of the government and of COPEI. That party could not send people directly to Central America.

One of the most important objectives is to see to it that electoral schedules are maintained. As it is known, in El Salvador elections have been announced for December and the Social Christian candidate is Napoleon Duarte. They think that those presently in power have lost support and they have a chance to return to power. In Honduras they have a small party which elected two deputies, but they maintain good relations with the government of Suazo Cordova, who is a Social Democrat. In Guatemala there certainly exists a strong Christian Democratic party, headed by Vinicio Cerezo and although elections have been announced for next year, they are not convinced that they will take place.

Another objective is to try to avoid (although seemingly impossible) war between Honduras and Nicaragua, by means of dialog with the different factions in the region.

Thus, they establish guidelines for the Central American Christian Socialists, with regard to grave problems in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala.

Juan Jose Monsant

It is an ODCA Mission

The director of Inter-American Affairs for COPEI, Juan Jose Monsant, states that Calvani and Gonzalez are discharging an ODCA mission and that it has nothing to do with the government or COPEI.

He says that they are not alone, but that ODCA has a large group of people who concern themselves with the different Christian Democratic organizations of America. There are groups who are assigned Colombia; others have Peru, Chile, Argentina, the Caribbean, etc. For example, Monsant specializes in Colombia.

"The objective of these missions is to lend help on an organizational level, for advice and training, to the Christian Democratic parties. In Central America they are the newer organization and need help in training.

"What is the position of COPEI with regard to Central America?

"The same as the government's. COPEI feels that help should be given to democratic parties of any stamp. In the second place, we desire the economic strengthening of those countries. Thirdly, we understand that Central American tensions are caused by social inequalities, by injustices, which very often have had the backing of the United States. We think that the vital security areas of the United States do not necessarily coincide with the security concept of Latin American countries, considered individually and on a global basis. Therefore, COPEI considers that the transfer of the East-West conflict to Central America is nothing more than the struggle of the two superpowers. We believe also that even though there must be a primary Latin American presence in the dialogs, it is undeniable that if efficacious solutions are to be achieved, the United States and Cuba must be present.

"Cannot that mission of Calvani and Eudoro Gonzalez be treated as a kind of 'secret conspiracy'?"

"It is an ODCA mission which does not have any extraordinary character. It is a normal thing for that organization to lend assistance to Christian Democratic parties in America."

9678

CSO: 3348/368



## STATISTICS OF MEKO-TYPE FRIGATE PUBLISHED

Paris LA NOUVELLE REVUE MARITIME in French Apr 83 pp 79-80

[Article: "Delivery of the Frigate 'Almirante Brown'"]

[Text] The frigate "Almirante Brown," the first of the four frigates of the MEKO-360-H2 type ordered by Argentina from Blohm & Voss shipyards of Hamburg, was delivered to the Argentine Navy on 2 February, in the presence of Argentina's ambassador to the FRG. The other three bear the names "La Argentina" (launched on 25 September 1981); "Heroína" (launched on 7 February 1982), which will be delivered this year; and the last, christened "Sarandi," put in the water last 31 August, will be handed over to the Argentines at the beginning of next year. The "Almirante Brown" made a call at Brest in March to take on the eight Exocet MM [Sea-to-Sea]-40 missiles with which it is equipped.

The "Almirante Brown" has the following characteristics:

- displacement: 2,900 tons; 3,360 tons fully loaded;
- dimensions: 125.9 X 119 (pp [expansion unknown]) X 15 X 4.32 X 5.80 (sonar);
- propulsion: COGOG [expansion unknown] system, comprising: two 19,400-kW Rolls Royce "Olympus" type TM-38 gas turbines for high speed, and two 3,770-kW Rolls Royce Tyne gas turbines for cruising speed; Denny Brown reducer--two variable pitch propellers;
- electrical power: 2,600 kW;
- performance characteristics:
  - maximum speed: 30.5 knots on the two gas turbines;
  - cruising speed: 18 knots;
  - steaming range: 4,500 miles at 18 knots;
- armament:
  - a) missiles:
    - eight Exocet MM-40's (4 X 2)
    - one Albatros surface-to-air system (W3 X 1)
  - b) artillery:
    - one 127-cal OTO-Melara
    - eight 40-cal Bredas (2 X 4)
  - c) ASM [antisubmarine warfare]:
    - six T/ASM (3 X 2) ASM type Ilas-3 with 18 torpedos; two WG-13 Lynx helicopters with 10 torpedos;



--electronic equipment:

a) radars:

- one Decca 1926 for navigation
- one DA-08 for air alert (HSA [expansion unknown])
- one WM25 combination alert radar (HSA)
- one Stir (HSA) for Albatros-system fire control
- two optronic LIROD's (HSA) for 40-cal artillery fire control

b) sonar:

- one Atlas 80 (Krupp)

c) electronic warfare:

- AEG [General Electricity Co]-Telefunken (jammer-detector)
- two SCLAR [expansion unknown] chaff-launchers (20 X 2);

--crew: 26 officers + 84 petty officers + 90 seamen.

The Albatros system is the Italian version of NATO's Sea Sparrow; it fires a missile, the Aspide, of higher performance. One magazine containing 16 missiles, located near the ramp, makes rapid reloading possible.



The Argentine frigate "Almirante [Admiral] Brown"

11267

CSO: 3519/503

## EXTERNAL DEBT RENEGOTIATION VIEWED AS POSITIVE ACTION

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 May 83 p A 3

[Text] The refinancing of part of the country's foreign debt presents a favorable development that portends a happy ending to this important measure. It will be recalled that towards the end of 1982 the economic authorities saw the need to renegotiate the maturity dates coming up during 1983 and 1984. It also became evident to them that it would be essential to obtain new additional credits for 1983.

The country had to start this negotiation to avoid internal restrictions stronger than the ones suffered up on the present time. If it had opted not to renegotiate, inevitably a new decrease in imports and in consumption would have taken place, with the purpose of decreasing the deficit in the balance of payments. This in turn would have meant diminished economic activity and consequently more unemployment. Thus the importance of obtaining the deferment of the payments due in 1983 and 1984 and, in addition, a net foreign credit flow of around \$1.3 billion.

Before starting negotiations with the foreign banking institutions, Chilean authorities asked the International Monetary Fund for a standby loan that would improve the country's reserve situation. The agreement with the IMF is important not only because of the resources it provides, but because this is viewed as a technical endorsement of the government's economic policies by the foreign bankers.

Chile took this preliminary step on 10 January of the present year, and by virtue of the signed agreement it committed itself to a policy of relatively moderate expansion of internal credit, to avoid a fiscal deficit larger than 1.7 percent of the product and to avoid losing exorbitant amounts of reserves.

These limitations were exceeded as a result of the bank intervention on 13 January. This made it essential to hold new talks with the IMF, through which more flexibility was obtained regarding the fiscal deficit, the matter of terms and the loss of reserves.

The principal term obtained will allow fulfillment of the commitment with the IMF and thus permit drawing out the remaining funds of the standby

agreement. This will take place next June, and will coincide with the term needed by the 12 banks representing the foreign banking community to obtain the approval for the renegotiation of our debt to the almost 500 creditor banks.

The committee composed of the 12 banks has already reached an agreement with the Chilean economic authorities about the terms and total amount of the renegotiation. So, it was agreed to renew the contract for the amortization which will be due in 1983 and 1984 and which will reach \$3.4 billion over a period of 8 years, with a 4-year grace period. It was also decided to accept the government request and grant an additional net credit for \$1.3 billion, which will be drawn during 1983.

It was also agreed to maintain the credit lines for international trade at the levels present on 31 January of the current year; this would mean \$200 million total additional funds.

The overall resources involved in this renegotiation thus reach \$4.9 billion. It looks as if this considerable sum will be attainable due to the support the IMF has given to the renegotiating program, which in turn is based on the granting of new credits by the international banks. The recently published records show that all those involved have adopted a favorable attitude towards Chilean policies and have planned their future activities so as to obtain a definitive solution in the shortest time possible.

9907

CSO: 3348/395



## LABOR URGES GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE SCOPE OF PROTEST

Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 12 May 83 p 4

[Text] "The government should recognize the validity and appraise the results of this peaceful protest, whose purpose was to show in a conscientious and voluntary way the discontent of the workers with the judicial, economic and social situation, and based on this, to achieve the implementation of profound changes that would return the country to democratic normality." Thus stated the president of ANEF [National Association of Government Employees] and general secretary of the Democratic Workers Union [UDT], Hernol Flores.

The leader took part in a press conference called by union members of both of the aforementioned organizations, besides representatives of the Unified Workers Front (FUT) and of the Chilean Confederation of Private Sector Employees (CEPCH).

Flores said that "the high degree of maturity and responsibility of the citizens during this peaceful protest should be recognized, inasmuch as it is not nor will it be the workers who provoke violence."

For his part, the president of the Bahia Workers Federation and of the UDT, Eduardo Rios, revealed that "in CAP-Huachipato almost 70 percent of the workers were absent from work; absenteeism in the cement industry was almost 100 percent; 90 percent of the petroleum industry workers did not gather for lunch; absenteeism among students was over 50 percent; it was noted that the movement of vehicles of all types was down by 15 to 20 percent, and that there was a great scarcity of shoppers among the population."

One of the significant things for the president of CEPCH, Federico Mujica, was that "all the important unions affiliated with the confederation gave to the board of directors of CEPCH the power to ask the government to take the responsibility for assessing the protest and the dissatisfaction."

Humberto Soto, of the FUT, pointed out that the protest "demonstrated the political maturity of the unions and the determination and unity of the workers." Finally, Eduardo Rios, when asked about the withdrawal of the UDT, the FUT and the CEPCH from the activities planned by the Confederation of Workers, stated that the problems and disagreements among the workers

in relation to strategies and procedures can be overcome. "Patriotism should be demonstrated by not driving the workers into actions that could be harmful to them because of their great severity and degree of risk in the present circumstances," he concluded.

9907

CSO: 3348/395

## SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW ARCHBISHOPS, BISHOPS EMPHASIZED

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 May 83 p A 3

[Text] The appointments made by the Holy See of the Archbishop of La Serena, Monsignor Francisco Fresno, as Archbishop of Santiago; of the Archbishop-Bishop of San Felipe, Monsignor Francisco de Borja Valenzuela, as Bishop of Valparaiso, and of the Bishop of Valdivia, Monsignor Jose Manuel Santos, as Archbishop of Concepcion has set in motion a process of renewal in the ecclesiastical hierarchy whose importance cannot be minimized.

The above-mentioned appointments refer to the three population centers that carry the most weight, demographically, economically and politically, in a country that is predominantly Catholic. For their religious leaders this means being informed and making decisions in a number of matters relevant not only to the faith but also to the always delicate field of actions that, although branded as temporal, are also of interest to the Church.

The last few decades have not been easy for the Chilean Catholic Church and consequently for its hierarchy. It can even be said that it never had to face so many and so varied demands and pressures. The rapid and deep secularization of life has made it difficult to obtain the loyalty of the faithful to its teachings, which problem has been made worse by the penetration among the clergy and the faithful of varied ideologies often in disagreement with the basic tenets of the doctrine.

These considerations should be kept in mind not only in order to judge the work of the previous priests but also to understand the exact dimensions of the problems that must be confronted by the new appointees. One that stands out is the loss of ground by the Catholic Church in relation to other Christian denominations. This phenomenon, which lately seems to have increased in pace, includes not only the cities but also the rural areas, and its origin could be found in the dwindling number of the Chilean clergy, no doubt a result of the secularization we have just mentioned.

Another aspect that deserves attention is that of the disagreements among the Church members and the priests in relation to matters that are debatable



and in the face of which certain episcopal pronouncements seem to restrict an essential pluralism in favor of specific currents of thought that, although honorable, are far from reflecting the stance taken by many of the Catholic sectors.

On the other hand, it cannot be ignored that relations between Church and State have deteriorated considerably. This, in part, has been a consequence of the situation existing in the country during the last decade and of the deficiencies noted in the mechanisms that protect human rights, which has pushed the former into adopting stances not always well understood and interpreted by the authorities and by the faithful themselves. A number of recent and related incidents have served to deepen the tensions between both powers, and certainly to introduce new elements of disturbance among Catholics.

Although it is true that the Archbishop of Santiago is not the head of the Chilean church, his influence is strong regarding its general orientation. It is thus that the appointment of Monsignor Juan Francisco Fresno has been unanimously considered as an essential step towards the necessary pacification of spirits.

An archbishop known for his moderation and his distinguished position in the clergy will no doubt know how to keep the Church away from inappropriate disagreements without detriment to its ability to continue performing its mission on behalf of the helpless. This will necessarily result in the consolidation of Christian virtues, the indispensable basis of that order founded in peace and justice that the Catholic Church hopes to strengthen in our country and in the world.

9907

CSO: 3348/395

## BRIEFS

**EXPORTS INCREASE IN APRIL**--During the month of April exports experienced a significant increase, surpassing by 5.8 percent those of the same month last year. Records of the Central Bank show that between the 1st and the 28th of April the shipment of Chilean products abroad reached \$327 million, while during the same month last year they amounted to \$309 million. In spite of the April increase it should be pointed out that the volume of exports during the first 4 months of the year was still slightly less than that during the same period in 1982. April's rise in prices is more noteworthy if the export volume is broken down into copper and copper products and the rest, which include lumber and cellulose, fruits, and in general those denominated "non-traditional" exports. While the export of copper and copper products decreased from US\$149 million in April of last year to US\$139 million in April 1983, the rest of the exports experienced an increase of 17.2 percent, rising from US\$160 million in April 1982 to US\$187 million this year. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 May 83 p B 1] 9907

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT**--The Chilean Commission for Human Rights published a detailed account of the human rights violations since the Political Constitution went into effect. During a press conference its general secretary, German Molina, the coordinator, Andres Dominguez, and the secretary for international relations, Gonzalo Taborga, maintained that incidents like those that took place on 1 May represent the culmination of what they describe as the "spiral of violence." It was reported on this occasion that between March 1981 and March 1983 there were 3,136 detentions (965 individually and 2,171 during demonstrations); 260 arrests for torture, 142 banishments, 28 deaths "in alleged confrontations," 19 deaths due to "abuses of power"; 22 cases of exile; 31 decrees forbidding reentry into the country and 265 arrests for intimidation. In relation to what happened in the Plaza Artesanos on Labor Day, when a group of armed civilians dispersed the demonstrators, Molina maintained that it is the government's duty to investigate the situation thoroughly so that the guilty persons will be sentenced in accordance with the present law. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 May 83 p C 3] 9907

## SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Mar 83 p 26

/Article by Mirta Balea/

/Text/ Cuban engineers, architects, specialists and construction workers over the past 10 years have provided construction assistance to developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean as forerunners of a rising new spirit in the so-called Third World.

This cooperation began in the early 1970's when an earthquake struck Peru- At that time, Cuba donated six hospitals.

"This aid was expanded to other nations and now some 7,000 Cubans are working in more than 10 countries," reports Government Minister Levi Farah in an interview with PRISMA.

Cooperation in this field includes technical research works, construction projects, production of prefabricated materials and elements, territorial and structural organization of civil construction enterprises, and planning and construction of microdams, bridges, highways, schools, dairies and hospitals.

Cuban assistance is provided in two ways: one way is through donation and the other is of a commercial nature, Minister Farah explained to us.

In the case of donation, it is given to countries and nations with scant resources and that is why the assistance is free as a contribution of the Cuban people, party and government to the development of such nations.

In the second case, payment is received for the assistance. It is offered to countries with a more solid economy, with which Cuba also has relations and which lack domestic capability and need to contract work to foreign enterprises.

Farah reported that work as a donation is being done in Nicaragua, Grenada, Guinea, Mozambique, Tanzania (where it already has concluded), Laos and Vietnam, and commercially in Libya, Angola and Iraq.



He announced that remunerated assistance soon will be expanded to include the Congo and Algeria. The Congo has been offered construction of a highway, several agricultural farms and villages; and to Algeria an airport and a highway.

Levi Farah went to Brazzaville in April 1982 and to Algiers the previous year to complete the details for these projects. In the Congo's case, Cuba previously had donated a prefabricated housing plant that is in operation.

The Cuban minister noted that such cooperation abroad in the area of constructions has a double value, economic and social, for the countries that receive it as well as for Cuba:

"From the work of Cuban builders in other countries there is the work that remains and the example represented by those men, who have gained admiration not only for their effort but also for the good relations they maintained in the towns where they worked.

"Cuban builders are quite aware of the customs and laws of the countries where they lend their assistance and they fraternize with the people always on the basis of respect for their customs."

Levi Farah said Cuban cooperation abroad in the area of constructions is a source of earnings for Cuba and that based on talks held with various governments, commercial contracts will increase in coming years.

The Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises (UNICA), which is responsible for such projects, was organized in late 1978 to institutionalize and expand cooperation abroad in the area of constructions. This work previously was done by a Construction Ministry directorate called Foreign Aid.

Cooperation by areas is as follows: Vietnam and Laos (Asia); Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Guinea and Congo (Africa); Libya, Iraq and soon Algeria (Arab countries); Nicaragua and Grenada (Latin America).

In Grenada, the international airport of that country is being built, for which a mountain had to be leveled and a bay filled in a complex engineering work.

"The geographic difficulties for construction of Grenada's international airport have been overcome and the work is proceeding at an acceptable pace. We know that tourism is an important source of income in that country and the current air terminal is too small to increase the number of visitors," stressed Farah.

In Nicaragua, he explained, the first phase of the highway that links the two coasts has been completed. Following the effects of heavy rains, assistance also is being given in the repair of bridges and housing. Five prefabricated housing plants also are being built, in addition to other important projects.

Referring to Cuban cooperation in African countries, he noted the completion of 120 km of a 150-km highway in Guinea and the construction of a pre-fabricated housing plant in that country that already is in operation.

In Angola, 2,200 housing units and more than 50 bridges have been built. An additional 2,000 housing units in six interior provinces of that country and a water distribution center in Luanda are under construction.

Regarding the two Arab countries, Farah stressed the construction of several highway in Libya and Iraq. A 150-km highway was built in Iraq. Schools, housing units and other social projects, including a new residential area, are under construction in Libya.

Ethiopia has benefited from two highways completed 6 months ahead of schedule. A cement plant--a contribution of the German Democratic Republic--currently is under joint construction in Ethiopia.

A unique aspect of this cooperation undoubtedly is the emulation organized by the National Trade Union of Construction Workers of Cuba to promote this task in which 7,000 Cubans are participating abroad.

Farah explained to us that workers, brigades and enterprises most represented by Cuban builders in other countries are selected annually, thereby establishing a true moral incentive for this cooperation in which thousands of Cuban internationalists have taken part thus far.

9925

CSO: 3248/791

## OVER 10,000 AFRICAN STUDENTS ON ISLE OF YOUTH

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Mar 83 pp 22-23

/Article by Victor Carriba/

/Text/ One arrives in the Isle of Youth after a 25-minute flight from Havana. It is a place of the Cuban archipelago converted by the revolution into forger of technicians and professionals for the future development of about 10 African countries.

Formerly called Isle of Pines and known in literature as "Treasure Island," it is located 125 km south of the western part of the "big island" (Cuba). Its current landscape is characterized by extensive citrus fields and groups of beautiful buildings where over 10,000 African children and youths are studying.

Those buildings are the Basic Secondary Schools in the Countryside (ESBEC) built by the Cuban Government since 1971. With a capacity for some 600 boarding students each, the objectives pursued by these institutions is to put into practice the study-work principle prevailing over all educational activity in Cuba.

Fifteen of those buildings are for youths and children of Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic /SDAR/ and South Africa (those from the latter sent by the African National Congress).

Youths and children receive primary, secondary and preuniversity education on the island. They are taught by Cuban teachers and by teachers from the students' respective countries.

The curriculum includes subjects such as history and geography, and others that are totally related to the students' country of origin as well as to cultivation of their cultural traditions under the direction of teachers of the same nationality as the students.

Before starting on the curriculum, the African scholarship students take an intensive Spanish language course. This course is not difficult for the Angolans, Mozambicans or Western Saharans, but it is for the Ethiopians,



Congolese, Namibians and youngsters from other French or English speaking countries.

Once the school year itself begins, the students go to the modern classrooms to take classes that follow a strict program. In the early afternoon hours, after lunch, they march to the green tropical field to plant, cultivate and pick the citrus wealth of the region.

Upon completion of the farm work, the students return to their schools in whose installations--which include bathrooms, dormitories, recreation halls and other facilities--they clean up, dine and hold a daily session of individual or group study until 10 pm, when the day's activities end.

Cuban Education Ministry data indicate that the more than 10,000 African students on the Isle of Youth had an average promotion rate of 95.39 percent in the past school year.

Angola and Ethiopia were the first countries to send children and youths to study in Cuba in accordance with bilateral agreements signed with the Cuban Government. These two countries currently have the most students in Cuba with a total of more than 4,000.

Most of the Angolans studying on the island are children of workers and are part of an important force in the Luanda government's effort to fight the 90-percent illiteracy rate and the shameful educational situation found by the People's Republic of Angola when it gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

There were slightly over 1,800 Angolan students when the 1981-82 school year ended. They attained a 100-percent promotion rate at the Leovigildo Ramires school, 99.68 percent at the Hoyi Ha Henda school, 98.45 percent at the Saydi Viera Dias Mingas school and 89.60 percent at the President Agostinho Neto school; in other words, a general average of 96.93 percent /as published/.

To these academic accomplishments must be added the noteworthy successes the students have had in their work on citrus fields on the island as part of the work that complements the basis of the Cuban education system.

Another aspect of Cuban cooperation with Angola in the education field is that Cuba has sent to that African country the Ernesto Che Guevara Internationalist Teaching Detachment. It is composed of young Cuban teachers who, along with other Cuban professionals, have been working in 16 Angolan provinces since 1978.

From Addis Ababa

A few months after Ethiopia's military victory over Somalia's regular forces that had invaded Ethiopia's Ogaden region and of Cuba's internationalist assistance to crush that aggression, the governments of Addis Ababa and Havana agreed to initiate broad cooperation in many fields, including education.

Such education cooperation is important given the situation which the Ethiopian revolution found when it triumphed in 1974: illiteracy rate of 93 percent in a nation with an estimated 30 million people.

It was therefore necessary to increase the registration of Ethiopian students on the island every year until it reached 2,300 scholarship students in 1982.

The Sene (name of a month in the Ethiopian calendar) school had a promotion rate of 98.83 percent, the highest among the schools for Ethiopian students. The Mengistu Haile Mariam school had 94.80 percent, the Batalla de Kore school 82.36 percent and the Karramarra school 90 percent.

In general, the schools for Ethiopian students accumulated an average promotion rate of 91.74 percent.

These students frequently are visited by their compatriots numbering over 1,500 who are studying at other levels (ranging from middle technician to university) at various Cuban schools.

This cooperation recently was marked by a unique activity, the graduation of the first seven Ethiopian students to graduate from Cuban higher learning centers.

Mozambique has the third largest number of students on the Isle of Youth with slightly over 2,000 at the end of the 1981-82 school year.

The inauguration of the Presidente Samora Moises Machel, Eduardo Mondlane, 25 de Septiembre and 28 de Enero schools for Mozambican students was the result of close relations between that country and Cuba and of the signing of several bilateral agreements.

Cuban President Fidel Castro and Mozambican President Samora Machel in March 1977 signed in Mozambique a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the two nations, which paved the way for constant cooperation.

In June 1977, the education minister of that African state traveled to Havana on her first official visit to Cuba. That visit ended with the signing of a cultural cooperation agreement. The first groups of Mozambican students arrived in the Isle of Youth a few months later.

At the end of the 1981-82 school year, Mozambican students, as a whole, had a 98.95-percent promotion rate, the best among schools for African countries having the largest number of students at the Isle of Youth.

The 25 de Septiembre was the best of the schools for Mozambican students with the promotion of all its students, followed by the Presidente Samora Moises Machel (98.43 percent), the Eduardo Mondlane school (98.29 percent) and the 28 de Enero school (97.64 percent).

## Namibia and Congo

The 1,100 students sent by the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) live and receive classes at the Hendrick Witbol school. In the 1981-82 school year, they had a promotion rate of 98.67 percent, the highest among all the groups of African students on the Isle of Youth.

The Namibian youths are adolescents who were refugees in the People's Republic of Angola, to where they had emigrated to save themselves from the repression of the racist forces that occupy the Namibian territory illegally.

The Cinco de Febrero school is located on another beautiful spot of the Isle of Youth. It has almost 600 young students from the People's Republic of the Congo, most of whom are children of workers and peasants of that western Africa country.

The Cuban Education Ministry data highlight that this group of Congolese students had a promotion rate of 92.94 percent in the 1981-82 school year, in spite of certain difficulties with students who still did not master the Spanish language well.

Plans for the current school year indicate growth in the registration of Congolese students.

For its part, the Evangelina Cossio school is one of the most unique on the Isle of Youth. Studying at that school are 118 youths from Guinea Bissau, 50 from Sao Tome and Principe, almost 600 from the SDAR and several dozens sent by the African National Congress. This school had an overall promotion rate of 91.84 percent.

To be able to cope with the growing number of African students on the Isle of Youth, Cuban authorities are planning to open two new schools for those students who are preparing themselves to work for the development of the countries where they were born.

9925

CSO: 3248/791

## FOREIGN DEBT REACHES 4.2 BILLION COLONS

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 14 May 83 p 5

[Text] In a lecture before members of the armed forces, Rafael Rodriguez Loucel, head of the Central Reserve Bank's Office of Economic Research, has said that El Salvador's foreign debt has reached the alarming figure of 4.2 billion colons.

To put the country's grave economic crisis in context, Rodriguez Loucel noted that, until 1978, El Salvador's foreign debt was 400 million colons and that the entire amount was medium-term debt.

He explained that the figure of 4.2 billion was as of 31 December 1982 and that the debt was broken down in the following manner: private sector, 400 million colons; Central Reserve Bank, 1.6 billion colons; and public sector, 1.8 billion colons.

He noted that the country's economic difficulties began in 1981, the year in which it found itself unable to pay for its imports, most of which were raw materials and therefore necessary.

Rodriguez Loucel said that the country's major financial problem was its foreign debt, since this increased the difficulty of obtaining international financing.

A dramatic aspect of the national economy, the lecturer pointed out, was the flight of capital experienced in 1980, which exceeded 1 billion colons.

Furthermore, the Central Reserve Bank's Rodriguez Loucel maintained that the economic crisis the country is passing through cannot be resolved if the destructive violence continues and economic recovery is therefore dependent on the restoration of peace.

12336

CSO: 3248/825



SCARCITY, COST OF MEDICINES CAUSES ALARM

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 May 83 pp 3, 43

[Text] The scarcity of medicines, as well as their high cost, is a subject of concern not only to consumers but also to the government authorities, who are upset by this situation which redounds to the prejudice of the economy and public health.

From one day to the next, as demand increases, the prices of medicine rise. A few medicines not much in demand are sold at fairly stable prices, but even these are high priced.

The other problem, that of scarcity, is getting worse day by day and, according to what the authorities have told us, causes the entire population serious concern.

Medicines that used to cost 5 colons, 75 centavos have gone up overnight to 12 colons, 50 centavos; others that used to cost 1 colon, 50 centavos have gone up to 3 colons, 50 centavos.

It seems, according to our informants, that the price rises cannot be halted and that the scarcity, too, will continue. Because of the scarcity, many people have been unable to recover from illness, and not a few have died for lack of medicine.

Many people, alarmed by this state of affairs, say that what is needed is a price control campaign, as well as oversight of other aspects of the medicine problem, e.g., that, even when there is medicine, poor families cannot obtain it, and that both the scarcity and price rises have created a serious and alarming situation.

12336

CSO: 3248/797

## DOUBLING OF POPULATION BY YEAR 2000 POSES GRAVE PROBLEMS

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 30 Apr 83 p 3

[Text] Demographic studies indicate that, in the year 2000, El Salvador will have nearly 10 million inhabitants, i.e., double the present population of about 5 million. The news is truly dramatic, said Jorge Ernesto Campos Cedillos, president of the Salvadoran Association of the Construction Industry, on assuming office, because this is a serious and important problem that we will have to face during the rest of the present century.

He indicated that our economy needs to expand sufficiently to meet this population increase and that, over the next 17 years, we will have to build more schools, more buildings and more housing than we have now. This means that we will literally have to build in the space of 17 years as much as we have built up to the present. And this is true even without taking into account the fact that existing needs have not been satisfied.

He pointed out that the construction industry is of vital importance, since it provides a means for the nation to realize its social welfare and economic ambitions and, through construction of infrastructure, industrial installations, housing and services, creates a climate that enables the nation to raise its people's living standard and its job-creating capability, either directly or through the multiplier effect of construction or other activities such as the construction materials industry, distribution, transportation, etc.

These considerations make the construction industry one of the pillars of economic recovery at a moment when our export trade is in decline.

12336

CSO: 3248/797

## COTTON GROWERS SURPASS PRODUCTION GOALS

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 14 Apr 83 pp 3, 14

[Text] The Salvadoran cotton growers' patriotism and dynamism were demonstrated Wednesday when Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana met leaders of the Salvadoran Cotton Growers Cooperative in a working session at the Presidential Household, the purpose of which was to inform him in detail of the results of the 1982-83 harvest and of expectations for that of 1983-84.

The cotton growers all acknowledged that they owed their success to the constant support they had received thanks to the initiative of President Magana, with whom they had discussed and planned price support mechanisms for the present harvest, which is estimated at 2,300 gold quintals; thus, the goal that the sector had set for cultivation—65,000 manzanas in various parts of the country—has been surpassed.

It should be noted that more than 195,000 men and women were employed for 8 months in planting, tending and picking the cotton and that they were paid the minimum wage in effect. This means that, despite the country's critical situation as a result of violence, the cotton growers provided employment at a steady rate through most of the year, since cultivation is followed by transportation, warehousing, clearing of the ground, etc. This example, observers point out, is worthy of emulation by other sectors, which by following it would contribute to the economic recovery the Government of National Unity is determined to achieve.

The leaders of the Cotton Growers Cooperative who met with President Magana told the press that this time they, as well as the government, will fulfill their goals with even greater enthusiasm, since they can count on the chief executive's support. And their enthusiasm is evident, as shown by the fact that, at this time a year ago, licenses had been requested for the cultivation of 2,000 manzanas, whereas this year requests have already been made for 20,000, i.e., an increase of 800 percent; this means that not only will a greater acreage be planted but also employment, the amount of money in circulation internally and foreign exchange reserves will increase.

In addition, the Salvadoran cotton growers told the press that Salvadoran cotton is now selling at a price of 74 dollars per gold quintal of value, or 8 dollars more than the product of other Latin American countries, thanks

to the superior quality achieved on El Salvador's cotton plantations. Reportedly, our cotton is being sold in Europe, Japan and some Iron Curtain countries.

The leaders who met with President Magana Wednesday were: Roberto Aguilar Papini (president), Ernesto Kuri (secretary), Aristides Barrera, Nino Durler, Jose Antonio Guandique, David Saca, Rodolfo Ignacio Guillen, Jorge Antonio Zaldivar, Gregorio Zelaya, Francisco Menendez Guerra, Edgar Zelaya, Luis Alonso Lino Marin, Jose Mario Lovo, Hector Manuel Himede, Godofredo Martinez Caceres, William Cruz Chorro, Ricardo Ernesto Gutierrez, Roberto Antonio Peralta Mendez, Rogelio Castro Argueta and Rene Cordova Salguero.

12336

CSO: 3248/797



SCIS CONCERNED ABOUT PROPOSED TAX PACKAGE

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 9 May 83 p 2

[Text] The Salvadoran Association of Commerce and Industry (SCIS) has expressed its concern about the "tax package" that the executive branch is sending to the Constitutional Assembly, pointing out that, if approved, it would increase the cost of living still further.

The business organization's statement reads as follows:

"The Salvadoran Association of Commerce and Industry (SCIS), which represents small and medium-sized business, has made a conscientious study of the national scene in all its aspects and is deeply concerned about the generalized crisis that is bringing us to chaos.

"No Salvadoran is ignorant of the fact that, despite all the efforts being made by the productive sector to maintain a balanced and developing economy, certain forces are destroying us, so that we all run the risk of ending up in misery, in a veritable state of prostration and dependency in every sense.

"As an organization representing a major sector of the population, we have been identifying the country's various problems and, at the same time, offering suggestions for correcting mistakes, because only in this way, and with a measure of comprehension and understanding, can we save our beloved homeland from the clutches of unemployment, economic and social subjugation and other factors capable of leading to the loss of our hard-working and brave people's sovereignty.

"The SCIS proposes therefore that all the driving forces of the economy attack this problem together, seeking viable alternatives for the benefit of the nation, which is struggling to escape the toils of underdevelopment.

"One aspect of the situation that has caused greatest concern to the productive sector is the tax package that, at the request of the executive channeled through the Ministry of Finance, the Constitutional Assembly will soon consider.

"The government argues that, if the tax package is not adopted, it will be obliged to reduce the number of government employees.

"The SCIS wishes to make clear that, if this tax package is approved, it will increase the cost of living, which (to use the popular phrase) is already sky-high, since producers will be obliged to raise the prices of their products; in this sense, it is the consumers whose interests are prejudiced, because the burden of the increase will fall on their shoulders. In addition, unemployment will rise, because, as soon as the taxes take effect, sales will fall and businesses will be obliged to reduce their personnel. Thus, what would happen is that the problem would be transferred to the productive sector.

"Furthermore, if the government should succeed in obtaining funds to deal with the problem, the relief would only be temporary; given the fact that the basic causes of the fiscal disequilibrium would remain, it is only logical to expect that, in the short term, more and more resources would be needed to continue functioning under present conditions, which are adverse to the interests of the majority.

"The SCIS maintains that the government ought to find other viable means of raising increased funds and supporting the public treasury and not overburden still more the productive sectors, which, instead, should be given incentives to continue their activities and establish a balance among sources of employment. In present circumstances--as we all realize--the government should avoid superfluous expenses that yield no benefits; cease investing money in ruinous, not absolutely necessary and, as the economists say, sumptuous projects and apply it instead to the realization of concrete projects that benefit everyone; take away from some agencies the privilege of hiring more people and raising salaries at will; eliminate trips and the celebration of unimportant events; and regulate the use of government vehicles, because everyone knows how officials abuse the privilege and waste precious fuel. These are only a few examples to show how the government could avoid certain expenses, which come out of the taxpayers' pockets. In this way, it could obtain increased funds to develop its operational and investment plans.

"Another point, to which we draw special attention, is that we really must combat corruption at all levels. One cannot ask the people at large to pay their taxes when there are people at the highest government levels who use their offices to enrich themselves, illegally appropriating funds for their own use. To the extent that the financial authorities keep their promise to punish speculators, order will be restored to the public treasury; if this promise is not kept, more and more taxes will be imposed, and, as we have pointed out previously, there will be no end to them.

"Everyone knows that the price of a barrel of petroleum has gone down in recent months; nevertheless, the government has so far provided no explanation of how it is using this price increase, which, given the national consumption, amounts to a considerable sum. Besides, the cost of fuel and other derivatives has remained unchanged."

12336  
CSO: 3248/825

## PRESS RELEASE FROM NICARAGUA EMBASSY DENOUNCES REAGAN

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 3 May 83 pp 1, 10

/Text/ The Nicaraguan embassy in our country has issued a press release in which it reports the rejection by the general leadership of the Sandinist Front and the Governing Junta of statements made by President Ronald Reagan which "merely show a politically motivated desire to make Nicaragua into a battlefield."

The release says that given the situation of the military invasion of Nicaragua any solution has to have the unwavering requisite of the unconditional withdrawal of the genocidal forces introduced into Nicaragua by the United States, and an end to the presence of American warships, flights of spy planes, and the participation of the U.S. intelligence community in the overt or covert financing, organizing, and direction of forces and plans against our fatherland."

At the same time it adds that "the Government of Nicaragua maintains its position of improving its relations with the United States and the opening of direct bilateral negotiations immediately on the basis of mutual respect and the recognition of our right to self-determination; that the Government of the United States officially and explicitly commit itself to ending aggression against Nicaragua, directly or indirectly.

The release adds that in view of the kind of aggression Nicaragua is facing, "we are receiving international support and we will continue to request it of all those governments inclined to offer it, but that Nicaragua, as a sign of its serious intentions, is ready to sign a nonaggression pact with any country and has assisted the Contadora group with a firm desire for peace, even though not all the results obtained were satisfactory."

Finally, it says that "Nicaragua, as a sovereign nation, will not merely defend its revolution, but hopes for the full reconstruction of the country. In view of the latest provocations it rejects the falsehoods of President Reagan respecting the installation of Soviet missiles in force in Nicaragua.

9015

CSO: 3248/767

## POLITICAL FUTURE OF COMMUNIST PARTY NOT CLEAR

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 3 May 83 pp 1, 3

/Text/ It is still not clear whether the Communist Party will participate "openly" in national politics.

This week the minister of interior, Col Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, said "there was no problem" with the Communist Party participating in the coming elections.

Mendez Ruiz gave assurances that such participation was included in the thinking of the present administration in that all Guatemalans and sectors should participate in the coming elections.

Leaders of the CP, who operate clandestinely, have remained totally silent regarding the government "invitation" to participate openly in Guatemalan politics.

The Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT) has operated clandestinely for over 30 years.

For its leaders to accept the government's invitation would mean complying with the requirements of the law regulating political organizations.

That is, they would have to initially request the Ministry of Government to process the documents required of any political organization.

According to the political organizations law, the PGT would have to prove that it had at least 4,000 members who could read and write and had party organizations in at least 50 towns and cities.

It would also have to be registered officially, which would mean revealing the names of its principal leaders and its members.

Presumably, the PGT could meet all the requirements of the political organizations statute, which was promulgated on 23 March of this year.

But, the basic law of the land as of this moment forbids such political organizations as the PGT from functioning.

The EFG /Basic Governing Statute/ states in section 6 of Article 23: "The organization and functioning of groups, associations, or entities acting in accord with or under the dominance of any totalitarian system or ideology and all those who violate in any way the principles and methods of pluralistic democracy are prohibited without exception."



This would be the situation of the PGT, hence the controversial nature of the statements made this week by the minister of interior, Col Ricardo Mendez Ruiz.

All of which raises the question of what the pluralistic philosophy of the government really is.

9015

CSO: 3248/767

## PID REQUESTS EARLY ELECTIONS TO ENHANCE NATIONAL TRUST

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 3 May 83 pp 1, 10

/Text/ The Democratic Institutional Party (PID) has publicly requested the government to schedule elections soon in order to enhance confidence at home and abroad.

Its leaders proposed an early election campaign after expressing their agreement with the political legislation promulgated on 23 March.

The PID was founded during the administration of Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia and was made up of government officials of that period and military officers who "retired" in order to devote their attention to party politics.

It remained in power for 12 years, being dominant during the administrations of Arana Osorio, Kjell Langerud, and Romeo Lucas.

In the last presidential campaign, it supported, together with the PR /Revolutionary Party/ and the FUN /Nationalist United Front/, the candidacy of Gen Anibal Guevars Rodriguez, who was proclaimed president-elect but did not assume the presidency.

The chief PID leader, Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, left the country "hurriedly" following the military coup of 23 March 1982.

During the first months of the military government the PID regrouped, its leaders remained silent, and it set itself to "riding out the storm" amid charges of fraud and corruption that were a popular topic of conversation.

Now the new leaders of the PID are praising the electoral legislation unveiled on 23 March of this year; they insist that they are not disorganized, nor will they have any problems in registering the party again.

The PID leaders estimate that economic problems can be solved in a short time if and when there is a return to constitutional government.

9015

CSO: 3248/767

## FUR ONLY TRADITIONAL PARTY NOT REGISTERED

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 3 May 83 pp 1, 3

/Text/ Only the United Revolutionary Front (FUR) has still not applied for registration as a political party.

Seven of the traditional parties have complied with the requirements of the new political organizations statute.

Leaders of the Authentic Nationalist Central (CAN) today went through the procedures of registering at the offices of the Ministry of Government, as provided in Article 211 of the above-mentioned statute.

The CAN leaders, headed by the interim secretary general, Mario Aguilar Arroyo, entered the National Palace shortly after noon.

According to the political organizations statute, promulgated on 23 March of this year, the political parties that were in "suspense" were given 2 months to reactivate their legal status.

The parties that were functioning up to 23 March, the MLN /National Liberation Movement/, PID /Democratic Institutional Party/, PR /Revolutionary Party/, DC /Christian Democratic/, FUN /Nationalist United Front/, PNR /Reformist National Party/, and today the CAN, have now complied with this requisite.

There remains only the FUR, whose leaders now have 20 calendar days in which to place their activities under the provisions of this new statute.

9015

CSO: 3248/767

## BRIEFS

DIFFICULT TO PROTECT TRUCK DRIVERS—"It is very difficult to provide protection for truck drivers who operate in the Central American region," the minister of interior, Col Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, stated yesterday. That official mentioned the terrorist incident at El Amatillo, on the Honduran-El Salvador border, where four tractor-trailer drivers from Guatemala perished while in an area that came under fire. Col Mendez said these people had been killed in no man's land, where the Guatemalan authorities can do very little to protect them. "Nevertheless, he noted, "we will request the cooperation of the authorities in the neighboring countries in order to protect, to the extent possible, truck drivers who earn their living transporting cargo to and from the other countries of the isthmus. The truck drivers are weighing the possibility of suspending trips to Honduras and El Salvador as a consequence of this unfortunate incident. However, no decision had been taken on the matter as of yesterday. /Text/  
/Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 May 83 p 13/ 9015

CSO: 3248/769



## PRI DEPUTY SEES NEED FOR PARTY REFORM

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 28 Apr 83 p 7

/Article by Jorge Octavio Ochoa/

/Text/ Yesterday the secretary general of ISSSTE /Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers/ and federal deputy for PRI, Carlos Jimenez Macias, said PRI /Institutional Revolutionary Party/ should become more democratic in order to avoid the temptation of bossism.

The PRI is called upon to correct its failures, to broaden its popular base, to strengthen the conscience of Mexicans to face up to the economic crisis, but above all, it is called upon to make itself more democratic so as to avoid the temptations of bossism or personalism.

Deputy Jimenez Macias, on making a harsh critique and evaluation of the party of which he is a member, spoke in that vein to the students of the Technological Institute of Monterrey in San Luis Potosi, where he held a conference on the Institutional Revolutionary Party, its origin, evolution and ideology.

Here he said that his party has undergone five historical and far reaching stages which go from the colonial period up to the Porfirio regime "whose characteristic tendency was the struggle for power and which came about through innumerable alliances."

In reviewing the revolutionary stage, the legislator said, it triumphed, but lacked a party that would lead the transformation of the nation, causing it to fall into a struggle between leaders.

Moreover, he affirmed that the different stages through which the party has gone are nothing more than other periods of adjustment to the demands of the nation and, he went on, PRI does not place itself in any classic definition of a party, but it has a progressivist ideology which recognizes class struggle as a phenomenon of the capitalist regime.

Finally, Jimenez Macias urged the youth to keep a watchful eye on party militance in order to banish arrivism and opportunism which has done great harm to our political system.

9908

CSO: 3248/762

## PSUM, PST SAID INCITING INDIANS TO SEIZE LAND

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 9 Apr 83 p 3

[Excerpts] Simojovel, Chis.--Understandable fear prevails among the inhabitants of this town because they know that groups of Indians incited by the PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico] and PST [Socialist Workers Party] and prodded by the clergy, intend to take this town by assault and commit a series of vandal acts which could result in dire consequences.

It is known that a number of representatives of the two political parties and people from the clergy meet periodically and furtively with the Indians to prepare and coordinate their totally lawless actions, which has already sown fear throughout the town. Likewise, it is mentioned that the group of innocent Indians, coached by active members of PSUM and PST, as well as by subversive representatives of the region's clergy, also are preparing to invade small properties whose apprehensive owners are ready to defend them--as they put it--at the risk of their lives.

On the other hand, it is said that the state government--having previous knowledge about these movements orchestrated by people aimed at destabilizing the state and sowing discord among the natives of Chiapas--has started a dialogue with the Indian groups to call them to their senses and in this way avoid a fatal confrontation between vandal groups and people who have to defend their property, with deplorable consequences.

9678

CSO: 3248/751

## OAXACA BISHOP SEES INDIANS SUSCEPTIBLE TO MANIPULATION

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 16 Apr 83 p 7

[Text] Tehuantepec, OAX.--Bishop Arturo Lona Reyes stated that the isthmian region suffers from a cruel subsistence standard of living in the face of the alarming scarcity of basic foodstuffs, which results in the manipulation of the people by some political parties to advance their own interests.

Lona Reyes, who has been severely criticized for pointing out the subsistence living in which the region's Indians find themselves, indicated that to preach the gospel meaningfully is to put oneself in difficulties and to be the object of criticism basically from the rich and from politicians who see themselves affected.

Monsignor Lona Reyes stated that last season's drought caused a crop loss and hunger among people in spite of the fact they were sent more than 150 tons of corn. He then emphasized that the people are neglected, many schools are always abandoned because they are so far away, teachers work when they wish and at their whim, as a result of which illiteracy is very noticeable.

Finally, he denied that there are Central American guerrillas in his diocese and said that he is not a political leader: "I am committed, as pastor, to marginal peoples to achieve their liberation," but he emphasized that that did not mean that he is involved with COCEI [Labor, Peasant, Student Coalition of the Isthmus] nor with any other political group, he was conducting himself along the lines laid down by his superiors which is nothing more than what the gospel preaches.

9678

CSO: 3248/751

## CARDINAL CORRIPIO CALLS FOR MORAL REFORM

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Apr pp 1-A, 12-A

[Text] Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada, Archbishop Primate of Mexico, stated yesterday that the moral renewal of society must begin with individual renewal, because the country can be better served by decent behavior, showing kindness to one's neighbor, and being dedicated to work or study.

After he offered mass in the metropolitan cathedral, the prelate urged Mexicans to contribute toward the moral renewal of society and said that Catholics should show their religious convictions not only in church, but in all their daily actions.

Likewise, he asked that Catholics preach kindness and mercy not only in church but also follow Christian ways in all actions of their daily life. He said also that one must not be a coward in showing one's beliefs.

The cardinal emphasized that Christian beliefs must be demonstrated at all times everywhere without fear of criticism or slander. Moral renewal, beneficial for the country, requires, above all, involvement on the part of individuals.

During Holy Week, the archbishop, primate of Mexico, had already alluded to the moral reform undertaken by the government. He reiterated his conviction that such reform is appropriate, because of the evident crisis, spiritual and of values, which the country faces.

He added that the Mexican people are very religious but restrained in showing their beliefs, which is perhaps due to the hostilities of long ago, of which believers were victims. He said that this "withdrawal" of Christians, on the other hand, is not unique in our country, but is seen everywhere.

During Holy Week ceremonies, according to opinions of priests of various parishes, the negative attitude of the capital faithful who came to religious places in larger numbers was more evident than in former years.

9678

CSO: 3248/751

## PEMEX COMPENSATES PEASANTS FOR OIL EXPLORATION DAMAGES

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Apr 83 p 2

/Article by Rene Delgado/

/Text/ The federal government acknowledged yesterday that oil exploration activities in the state of Tabasco "has caused destruction of lands and crops," besides damaging the ecology, and as a result, it decided to start a program, whose initial investment will reach 1,012,400,000 pesos, which will include indemnity payment to peasants in Comalcalco, Huimanguillo, Cardenas and Paraiso, sites where property, wealth and cultivation were affected.

The Secretariat of Government showed a document in which it is recognized and sets forth that the federal government will sign a coordination agreement with the government of Tabasco through which "a program using federal funds will be put into effect compensating peasants affected by exploration and oil exploitation and for repairing damage sustained by local townships, as well as restoring the ecological balance."

In the document mentioned, it is shown that President Miguel de la Madrid officially recognized the damage done by the oil industry in a large area of Tabasco, which includes the townships of Comalcalco, Huimanguillo, Cardenas and Paraiso, and to start a program of economic and social development that would include the construction of schools, potable water access, drains, roads and bridges and an adjunct program of compensation "to all peasants who were hurt" by oil activities.

"PEMEX has carried out activities on several ejidos and small privately owned lands," the document stated and added that damage has been made to farm lands, private property and cattle caused by industrial waste which has harmed the ecology.

"In particular, Mexican Petroleum admits," the text confirms, "that development of petroleum activities—exploration, exploitation, processing and refining—has indeed caused damage to lands and crops as a consequence of industrial wastes and, moreover, has destroyed the ecology on said properties and urban areas."

Thus, after having made an inspection, a program has been announced under the name "Concerning Socio-Economic Development in Areas Affected by Oil Activities



in the State of Tabasco" and in which the Secretariats of Programing and Budget, Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, Communications and Transport, Urban Development and Ecology, as well as Mexican Petroleum and the Federal Commission on Electricity, will participate. Organizations which would coordinate jobs with the government of Tabasco in developing a program that will benefit 5,000 peasant families.

As a matter of fact, the program will take effect today in a ceremony to be held in Villahermosa, Tabasco.

9908

CSO: 3248/762

## HOUSING CONSTRUCTION COSTS INCREASE 240 PERCENT

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Apr 83 p 4

/Article by Teresa Gil/

/Text/ The National Sole Trade Union of University Workers (SUNTU) contended that in view of the inability of the state to solve the housing problem--which at the moment shows a shortage of 6 million houses in the nation--the workers ought to develop their own program for dwellings as the different unions have done in recent years.

In its report on housing, given to its second congress, SUNTU stresses that construction prices have risen 240 percent, beginning in 1981, while salaries increased only 52 percent.

It states that the majority of people in Mexico have no access to houses built by private realtors and 65 percent are not included in public housing programs, who, on the other hand, are no longer so numerous since interest rates went up from 11 to 39 percent in recent months.

The university union emphasized that the housing shortage affects almost 30 million people, the majority of those already in existence are in bad shape, and that at that rate by the year 2000 the nation will need to build "millions of houses."

It added that the housing shortage affects mainly rural inhabitants who are always the least favored and, then, urban workers.

It states that the housing problems the country has are exceeded only by Pakistan and Nigeria and that in that situation, faced with the evidence that the greater number of houses are built at high costs by private builders, the state has offered no alternative through organizations responsible for putting housing policies into effect.

9908

CSO: 3248/762

## BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL--The Secretariat of Foreign Relations (SRE) said that university professor Henrique Gonzalez Casanova was named yesterday in a presidential order as ambassador to Portugal. Gonzalez Casanova, age 58, is currently the permanent secretary to the Governing Board of UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico). He was the founder of the general directorate of publications in 1955, chairman of the commission on new teaching methods between 1970 and 1976 and director of the Research Center for Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (1980-1982). The secretary announced that Carlos Plank, as of now the director of international relations for the National Institute of Fine Arts, was designated to be the consul general in Barcelona. /Text/  
/Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Apr 83 p 7/ 9908

CSO: 3248/762

DOMESTIC OPPOSITION ALSO 'ENEMY' OF REVOLUTION

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Apr 83 p 2

[Commentary by Gladys Campos de Orozco; "Watch Out for the Other Silent War"]

[Text] The way in which Nicaragua and its vanguard the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] are responding with wise political maturity to the most recent escalation of aggression by imperialism is the way we should forcefully reply to our domestic enemies.

Because the enemies of this revolution are not just those who are entrenched in our mountains, nor just those who are entrenched in our mountains, not just those who are waiting on our borders to invade us. Our enemies are also those who have falsely presented themselves as "opponents" of Sandinism and call themselves "Christian-Democrats." Because an irrefutable truth is that everyone who is a reactionary and today supports the counterrevolutionary actions based in Honduras and our own territory that are being carried out by the Somozist guards and their backers, is in fact a counterrevolutionary.

At the present time we are at the hour of historical truths: either we are on the side of the revolution or we are against it. There are not middle terms. There is no neutral ground. There is neither room for indifference toward either side, nor for that comfortably hypocritical phrase "I don't get involved in anything; the only thing that matters to me is to live my own life in peace."

In the face of the "undercover" war (which is now a secret being shouted) being waged on the border and in our mountains, every reactionary who is against those on the line, defending our Fatherland clutching a gun, is waging an inside war against the People's Revolution, a silent war, which parallels that war directed by the Reagan administration against Nicaragua and the Central American liberation movements.

And though this seems a radical appraisal, it is nothing more than the irrefutable truth. Because a revolution is going on here, a people's revolution is being defended here; here are the organized people, the

organized youth, those who are spilling their blood to prevent a return to the Somoza government and the exploiters of the Nicaraguan people. It is not a war between political parties, nor a struggle to keep a leader in power, much less to keep the privileges of the minority. This is a war of the people, against the enemy of the people. It is a war against the invader once and for all. It is a war against those who yesterday filled our mountains and our cities with corpses; they are the same ones who filled the ranks of the Occupation Army that supported the dictatorship of Somoza and its patron the United States at gunpoint and bayonet-edge. They are the same murderers as yesterday, in the same mold as the repressive armies of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. They are the same kind as those who perpetrated the massacres of Salvadoran refugees in the Lempa and Sumpul Rivers. They belong to the same family as those who assassinated the holy Archbishop Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero. They are the same ones, let us not fool ourselves: human weapons of imperialism to keep its hegemony in Central America. Let everyone who feels that way take their guns and join the Somozist gangs, which is where they should be!

Within our country, while our husbands, brothers, relatives, sons, and so forth are giving their lives to prevent this dreadful era in our past from coming back, we must also fight the silent war that our domestic enemies have declared. These enemies speculate, hoard, create diversions, complain, keep the people stirred up against the legally established government and the vanguard that was forged with blood and sacrifice. They resist each and every measure of law and order issued to maturely handle the present economic and political situation. They lie, they criticize destructively, they take advantage of the ignorance of certain sectors to create general disagreement; they cling to the standard of religion in order to adversely touch on the weakest point that we Nicaraguans have. They twist the positive points, turning them into negatives. They call themselves democrats to disguise their fascist spirit. They call themselves Catholics to disguise their indifference and the disdain they have always felt for the lower classes, whom they have always called and still call "riffraff" or "rabble." They manipulate the true people's call for real social justice, calling the organized people "repressive mobs." They spread Machiavellian rumors, the dark content of which and the damage they could cause only they are aware. And if that were not enough, they keep close ties with counterrevolutionaries abroad, appearing to be pure citizens, suffering citizens, while they come and go freely across our land and air borders carrying destruction for our people.

That the revolution has been too benevolent is another fact. Every effort has been made here to avoid taking radical steps to impose necessary order once and for all; that is another fact. The Nicaraguan People's Revolution has done everything possible to keep its single hallmark: A revolution unique among the history of revolutions! But they will not leave it in peace! Since its birth and even before, they have sentenced it to death! It is another fact that in the space of almost 4 years of revolution, mistakes have been made, because this is a revolution by the people and their vanguard, and they are human, not divine. It is a fact that for nearly



4 years they have been learning how to conduct a revolution at the cost of tremendous sacrifices. It is another fact that within it there are still many people who, instead of helping the process, are casting a shadow over it and denigrating it. But that is no reason for us to side with those who never lifted a finger against Somozism. That does not mean we are going to become enemies of this heroic people who have always gambled their hunger, their nakedness, their blood to win restoration of all their rights. Restoration that the Reagan administration wants to take away from them. A person who one way or another sides with the former guards and their supporters to overthrow Sandinism scarcely deserves to be called Nicaraguan. Does a person who enjoys listening to counterrevolutionary radio and who rubs his hands in glee at the mere thought that the counter-revolution could defeat Sandinism and come back to Nicaragua in triumph to give him back his privileges deserve one bit of revolutionary benevolence? Don't these madmen realize that in the river of blood that such an event would mean not only for Nicaragua but for all Central America, they would be the first ones drowned?

For all the reasons I have mentioned, we must stay alert. Just as Nicaragua has not yielded to the provocations that the Reagan administration is extending to us by way of Honduras and all the Somozist scum that its territory shelters, so here on the domestic front we must not yield to the provocations of our enemies. We must fight them with the rifle of truth, have the courage to defend the revolution against anything and in any way we must. To defeat these enemies. To unmask them before the people, expose their true individualist intention which goes against the collective good. We must not allow ourselves to be intimidated by rumors, by diversions, we must not yield to the provocation of the undermining of our revolutionary conviction. We must have the courage to face, with righteous understanding and in order, all the inconveniences, the rationing, sacrifices, measures that our vanguard takes, not because it wants to but because the current historical moment demands it. We must think that, while we here in the city have enough to eat, to clothe ourselves, educate ourselves, heal ourselves and so forth, there in the mountains our comrades guarding the border, of the EPS [Sandinist Popular Army], the MINT, and our heroic militia youth are staying in the mountains, perhaps ill-fed, sleepless, in the rain, sometimes ill-armed and with only their tremendous love for the Fatherland for spiritual food. They are giving us a beautiful lesson in being Nicaraguan, in Christianity, in love for their people!

Let us make no mistakes, then. The war is not just on the border or in the mountains. A war is also being waged in the city, perhaps more cunning, more sinister, more lethal. Therefore let us not allow ourselves to be provoked, let us not fall into our enemies' trap, because this is also a vital part of the escalation of aggression by the Reagan administration: divide domestically in order to win in the battles!

Be careful of provocations, people of Nicaragua! We must open our eyes, know who are our enemies and who are our friends. Our enemy is not just the one who points a gun at us. Another one is the person who spreads rumors, who

disagrees with others, prevaricates, who disparages, who sows confusion, who complains about the privations imperialism has imposed on us, in order to confuse us. That person's real intentions are for his own good, not the collective good. His criticism is pernicious, never constructive. His intention is to disunite, not to unite all Nicaraguans. Be careful of this silent war! Let us face up to the current sacrifices the Fatherland demands of us, let us become brave revolutionary fighters. The rifle alone may not be our weapon, our own political conviction is still much better. The enemy is the same, it is only that today part of them hold more sophisticated weapons in the mountains and on the border; while in the city, the other part are wearing sheep's clothing! Let us not yield to provocations! Let us not fall into the trap! Let us stay alert! And as certain as we are that there is a 19 of July that is a mote in the gringos' eye--that certain: We Will Overcome!

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## ORINOCO-APURE INTEGRATION PROJECT DISCUSSED

Caracas RESUMEN in Spanish 22 May 83 p 15

[Article by Luis Alvaray: "The Orinoco-Apure Axis"]

[Text] Venezuelan regional development requires new encouragement. Strategies and policies attempted over the past 20 years must be reviewed in order, in the light of successful results, to discard everything that was wrong and mistaken and to move beyond already outdated models for projects or those which are simply running out of steam.

Guyana, in particular--the major regional development effort conducted in the country--must be subjected to careful analysis and to a vigorous creative effort to chart its future anew, combining everything positive that has been achieved with that which will have to be built over the next several years, thinking in terms of a time frame running beyond the end of this century.

Many are the ways to be explored and the possibilities to be considered. Guayana is too vast, rich, and important so that it is relatively easy to imagine many ways of charting its development. There are however ideas whose significance is such that they definitely stand out among the rest and their consideration makes them one of the centers of that design which we seek. One of those ideas undoubtedly is the development of the Orinoco-Apure Axis which goes far beyond Guyana itself to become a possibility for the entire southern part of Venezuela.

For several years now, different groups of researchers have been examining the enormous potential contained in a long-term plan aimed at the overall development of the Orinoco and its links with Apure, with the Arauca, and with the Meta. This would be an ambitious territorial development program which would lead to the establishment of an area about 2,000 kilometers long in the country's south, which in terms of economic activity and population occupation would compete with the coastal north to achieve the efficient utilization of space through which we could use the vast and empty sections of national territory and reduce pressure on the overpopulated central zone.

This arrangement would as its fundamental point of reference have the use of the river axis which would permit strong intersector combination of all development efforts along the margins of that axis, starting with those already

existing or those which have been begun, such as basic industry in Ciudad Guyana, the Petroleum Strip, the Apure modules, the agricultural and live-stock as well as agricultural and forestry development efforts in the southeast Guyana and the iron, bauxite, and coal mines, among other things.

The axis would become the fundamental element in an intermodal transportation system whose connections with land transportation lines would be placed at strategic concentration points such as Ciudad Guyana and Ciudad Bolivar today; in the future we would have Caicara, Cabruta, Pto. Ayacucho, San Fernando, Puerto Nutrias, Guasdualito, and others of varying importance.

The development of the axis would include the hydroelectric improvement of the Orinoco through a group of dams whose estimated potential is more than 2,000 Megawatts. There is also a possibility of tremendous fishing industry operations (around 80 tons per year) and the development of infrastructure facilities for water control which would make it possible to get the most agricultural use out of the plains which can be flooded by the rivers.

With its branches, the Arauca and the Meta, the river axis would also serve as support for the development of an adequate frontier policy, as a transportation system for the Colombian southeast, and as a connection point for possible continental river interconnection.

This, in broad outline, is the essence of the idea that has been proposed. Individuals and technical groups committed to the cause of Venezuela have been working on the preliminary analyses and studies and hope to turn the idea into a national program with the support of all of the country's sectors; for this purpose they are drawing up a publicity plan which includes meetings with presidential candidates. We had an opportunity to attend one of those meetings, accompanying Teodoro Petkoff, and we felt completely supportive toward the overall vision and the basic proposals of this undertaking.

However we do realize that there are tough obstacles that must be overcome to make sure that the program will fit in as an objective of true national development. The first group of difficulties is of an institutional character and has to do with the absence of a planning agency where a program of that type could get adequate consideration, along with poor project coordination on a national scale, the low decentralization level of the government's structure, the lack of regional government in the zones involved in the program, the absence of a long-term view which is frequent among our rulers, and the financial and technical problems involved in a program of this magnitude. Specific examples of this type of difficulties are abundant and it suffices to mention just two recent cases to illustrate our point. First of all, we have the second bridge over the Orinoco River, to be built on the level of Puerto Ordaz, where there was a rather short-sighted approach to the project, leading to the adoption of a solution of the "provisional" type which restricts future planned development. Fortunately, the undertaking seems to have been abandoned for the time being in view of the delay in the project in the petroleum strip. Another example is the way in which dams were built in a rather helter-skelter fashion along the banks of the Apure River, creating a big flooding problem in the State of Barinas, while this project of course is not made a part of any plan or overall development approach.



In addition to this group of difficulties which we called institutional, there are others which are no less severe and which are of a political nature. In the end, the good quality of any development program must in our opinion be established in social terms. The development of the axis is valid to the extent that it can guarantee or promote a high standard of living for the population to become involved in this development undertaking. If it only serves for the benefit of just a few--those who also utilize the coastal north-central zone--and if it gives the many only a marginal living standard, then we would simply be reproducing an unjust social order in another part of the nation's territory.

It is therefore necessary to prevent that from happening and, to do that, the program's social components must be maximized, regarding the order and priority of projects, the economic activity to be selected in each case, the ways of developing that activity and the types of property ownership and management to be instituted, the way in which new urban areas to be created are planned and implemented, the depth with which we tackle regional development both in political and economic and well as institutional terms, the importance assigned to variables of an ecological character, and the priority which we give to the construction of the social infrastructure. We must establish aspects such as these in the program in such a manner that they will favor the majority of the population and the accomplishment of all this undoubtedly is a task that will require a tremendous effort to enable us to overcome the resistance generated by such an approach. This however is what will validate the program's development in social terms.

Even if we look at all of the difficulties that will have to be overcome, the idea of developing the Orinoco-Apure axis can turn out to be entirely viable and can transform the country. The rivers are there. They are the same as those that amazed Columbus, Diego de Ordaz, Humboldt, or Jules Verne. Their potentials are tremendous so that it is well worth the trouble to launch the tremendous effort now so that these immense water bodies may be fully utilized to the nation's benefit.

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## BRIEFS

FCA LOANS TO PRODUCERS--The Agriculture and Livestock Credit Fund has increased its financing line for the country's growers to be able to achieve the announced increase. The FCA [Agriculture and Livestock Credit Fund] has 600 million bolivares, a result of the agreement signed recently with the Venezuelan Investment Fund. The 600 million will be distributed in the following manner: 140 million for the milk production program; 150 million for the sugar cane programs; 120 million for the rural development areas; 120 additional million for the agricultural technician program; and 70 million for coffee production programs. The FCA also extended its financing to other categories of poultry and hogs where this year, because of foreign exchange controls, there is a very great foreign demand which has created an additional market for the output; this is why the FCA extended financing to them for the purpose of making sure that there will be no domestic shortages. A share of the amount of 50 million bolivares has been set aside for this program; absolute priority will be given to the consolidation of existing establishments and the correction of the situation in those establishments which cause environmental contamination in some areas, such as Lake Valencia, Fila de Mariches, the highway to Junquito, etc. Well, it never rains but it pours. [Text] [Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish 16-22 May 83 p 19] 5058

FEDECAMARAS OPPOSES WAGE INCREASE--FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] has accepted an invitation from CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] to hold consensus, dialogue, and coordination meetings but it made very clear its inclination to reject any wage hike proposal. This indicates that there will be no conversations. According to FEDECAMARAS President Dr Carlos Sequera Yopez, the employer organization believes that the Law on Costs, Prices, and Salaries is an impracticable instrument since it violates the constitution. Regarding the wage hike, the employers came out against it because, first of all, any coercive wage and salary hike (and there have already been two) has negative repercussions on production and productivity and therefore the best way to increase work income continues to be collective bargaining. [Text] [Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish 16-22 May 83 p 20] 5058.

HOUSING SHORTAGE--Venezuela is facing a housing shortage estimated at more than a million housing units, according to Dr Alberto Rodriguez, president of the Real Estate Chamber of Venezuela. In the opinion of construction contractors, the problem to be solve involves financing, both for construction and for housing purchase. The construction industry is in a recession as a result of the rise in equipment prices, the cost of land, and the high wages that must be paid as a result of collective bargaining. On top of all this there is the high cost of money which went up considerably because of the rise in interest rates. The financial system was unable to reduce taxes because its money collection volume has declined as a response on the part of the public which now must save more money to meet its basic needs. The Gordian knot continues to be financing. The government must seek formulas which will permit the rival of the financial establishment in order thus to provide dynamic impetus for the market. The banks and the savings and loan associations in turn have the obligation to facilitate mechanisms for the granting of loans because this is a long and cumbersome process which considerably delays operations, thus raising the final sales price. This effort must be speeded up by private enterprise in order to exert pressure on the government to legislate in favor of a reduction in the time required for licensing procedures. [Text] [Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish 16-22 May 83 p 20]

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